

**Holy Eucharist
with Imposition of Ashes
Ash Wednesday**

March 2, 2021— 7:00 p.m.



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**St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Los Gatos, California**

Ash Wednesday in the College Chapel

Gregor, Cassandra, and James
come into the chapel and wait to adjust their sight.
Then venture singly down the center aisle.
They shift their backpacks uncertainly,
and one drops down to sit in a pew.
Gregor slips forward, as I wait, dish of ashes in hand.

He is uncertain to see that the white haired person,
clad in a cassock and violet stole is female.
But I smile, and he continues.
He tells me his name. I lay my hand upon his shoulder
and close my eyes and pray for him and his family
and his peace of mind.

Then I dip my thumb in the blackened remains of
last year's palms that served the festive entrance of
our Lord into Jerusalem, and mark his brow.
The others follow, one by one, all day and every year.

We face here our mortality with an intensity we
seldom have the faith to recognize.
But we are dust, and all our processions end in ash.
I share that truth with the young who have so
many steps still to take. We were and will be dust.
But today, we meet on this briefly holy ground.

We may face life or death on any day,
but this day we are called to see death and feel
it rough against our skin, and look ahead for forty days
toward life—or so we tell the young.

Nayan McNeill+

The Holy Eucharist

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation.

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8–14

8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 He will not always accuse us, *
nor will he keep his anger for ever.

10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.

- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so is his mercy great upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he removed our sins from us.
- 13 As a father cares for his children, *
so does the Lord care for those who fear him.
- 14 For he himself knows whereof we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.

The Second Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Hymn 142 (verses 1–3)

*“Lord, who throughout
these forty days”*



- 1 Lord, who through-out these for - ty days for us didst fast and pray,
2 As thou with Sa - tan didst con-tend, and didst the vic-tory win,
3 As thou didst hun-ger bear and thirst, so teach us, gra-cious Lord,
4 And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through thy Pas-sion - tide,
5 A - bide with us, that so, this life of suf - fering o - ver - past,



- 1 teach us with thee to mourn our sins, and close by thee to stay.
2 O give us strength in thee to fight, in thee to con-quer sin.
3 to die to self, and chief - ly live by thy most ho - ly word.
4 yea, ev - er - more, in life and death, Je - sus! with us a - bide.
5 an Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last!

The Holy Gospel

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Gospel Hymn 142 (verses 4 & 5)

*“Lord, who throughout
these forty days”*

The Sermon

The Rev. Ricardo Avila

Invitation to the Observance of a Holy Lent

Please stand.

Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord’s passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God’s holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is kept for a time.

Blessing and Imposition of Ashes

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

At the Imposition of Ashes, the Celebrant shall say:

Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Psalm 51

Kneeling or standing, the Celebrant and People say together:

- 1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4 Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5 And so you are justified when you speak
and upright in your judgment.
- 6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me,
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.

- 8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure;
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9 Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10 Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12 Cast me not away from your presence
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13 Give me the joy of your saving help again
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14 I shall teach your ways to the wicked,
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15 Deliver me from death, O God,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
- 16 Open my lips, O Lord,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17 Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice;
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18 The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Litany of Penitence

Kneeling or standing, the Celebrant and People say together

Most holy and merciful Father: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

The Celebrant continues

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us.

We have not been true to the mind of Christ.

We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness:

the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways,

and our exploitation of other people,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our anger at our own frustration,

and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts,

and our dishonesty in daily life and work,

We confess to you, Lord.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,

and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,

We confess to you, Lord.

Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done:
for our blindness to human need and suffering,
and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors,
and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

For our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;
Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,
That we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,
Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn

“Ashes”



1. We rise a-gain from ash - es, from the good we've failed to
2. We of - fer you our fail-ures, we ___ of - fer you at -
3. Then rise a-gain from ash - es, let ___ heal - ing come to
4. † Thanks be to the Fa-ther, who ___ made us like him-



1. do. We rise a - gain from ash - es, to cre - ate our - selves a -
2. tempts, the gifts not ful - ly giv - en, the ___ dreams not ful - ly
3. pain, though spring has turned to win - ter, and ___ sun - shine turned to
4. self. † Thanks be to his Son, ___ who _ saved us by his



1. new. If ___ all our world is ash - es, then ___ must our lives be
2. dreamt. Give our stum - bl - ings di - rec - tion, give our vi - sions wid - er
3. rain. The ___ rain we'll use for grow - ing, and cre - ate the world a -
4. death. † Thanks be to the Spir - it who cre - ates the world a -



1. true, an ___ of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
2. view, an ___ of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
3. new from an of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.
4. new from an of - fer - ing of ash - es, an of - fer - ing to you.

Words: Tom Conroy (b1951). Music: Tom Conroy (b1951); acc by Michael Joncas (b1951). Copyright ©1978 OCP. All rights reserved. Reprinted, podcast and streamed with permission under One License #A-706525. All rights reserved.

Prayers Over the Gifts

Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendor, and the majesty. For everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, **and of your own have we given you. Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation; through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. It will become for us the Cup of Salvation. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Pray, friends, that this our sacrifice may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty. **May the Lord receive this sacrifice at your hands, to the praise and glory of God's Name, both to our benefit and that of all God's Holy Church. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who was tempted in every way as we are, yet did not sin. By his grace we are able to triumph over every evil, and to live no longer for ourselves alone, but for him who died for us and rose again.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Said by all

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Hymn

“Wilt thou forgive that sin”
sung by Ted Lorraine

Wilt Thou forgive that sin, where I begun,
Which is my sin, though it were done before?
Wilt Thou forgive those sins through which I run,
And do run still, though still I do deplore?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

Wilt Thou forgive that sin, by which I won
Others to sin, and made my sin their door?
Wilt Thou forgive that sin which I did shun
A year or two, but wallowed in a score?
When Thou hast done, Thou hast not done,
For I have more.

I have a sin of fear that when I've spun
My last thread, I shall perish on the shore;
Swear by Thyself, that at my death Thy Son
Shall shine as He shines now, and heretofore.
And having done that, Thou hast done,
I fear no more.

Words: John Donne (1573-1631). Music: Donne, John Hilton (1599-1657).

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Said by all

Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Solemn Prayer over the People

The Celebrant says:

Bow down before the Lord.

Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they
may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn 143

“The glory of these forty days”



1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
4 Then grant us, Lord, like them to be full
*5 O Fa - ther, Son, and Spi - rit blest, to



1 ce - le - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
2 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
3 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
4 oft in fast and prayer with thee; our spi - rits strength - en
5 thee be ev - ery prayer ad - dressed, who art in three - fold



1 things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
2 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
3 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
4 with thy grace, and give us joy to see thy face.
5 Name a - dored, from age to age, the on - ly Lord.

Words: Latin, 6th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell (1862-1947), alt.

Music: *Erhalat uns, Herr*; melody from *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The Dismissal

The clergy dismisses the People and they respond

Thanks be to God.



Servers—March 2, 2021

Celebrant / Preacher	The Rev. Ricardo Avila
Lay Assistant	Roger Fleming
Lectors	Ron Victor & Grady Jeter
Organist	Dr. Colin Whitby-Strevens
Cantor	Ted Lorraine
Ushers	Ann Whyte
Altar Guild	Stephen Wells & Linda Walton



Cover: *The Angelus* by Jean-François Millet (1814–1875) b. France

*St. Luke's Episcopal Church is a place of peace, beauty,
and relationship that reflects God's saving presence
through our rich Tradition, our intellectual curiosity,
and our work in the wider community.*

Saint Luke's Clergy & Staff

Rector	The Rev. Ricardo Avila revrico@stlukeslg.org
Assisting Clergy	The Rev. Ernest Cockrell The Rev. R. Clark Emerson The Rev. Nayan McNeill, Ph.D. The Very Rev. William S. Stafford, Ph.D.
Interim Music Director	Dr. Colin Whitby-Strevens colin@stlukeslg.org
Parish Administrator	Mr. Michael King office@stlukeslg.org
Treasurer	Mr. Art Feather
Altar Guild Coordinator	Ms. Carol Graham
Liturgist	Mr. Pat Waddell
Outreach/Pantry Director	Ms. Jo Greiner
Rector Emeritus	The Rev. David R. Breuer

Saint Luke's Vestry • vestry@stlukeslg.org

Genevieve Cleveland	Jane Ogle
Kelly Conway	Martha Sterne
Toni Dick	Colin Whitby-Strevens
Kenna French	Ann Whyte
Glenn Katz	Carol Graham (Non-Vestry Clerk)

Saint Luke's Episcopal Church • 20 University Ave. • Los Gatos, CA • 95030
408-354-2195 • Emergency: 408-399-5435 • www.stlukeslg.org